



Traffic Safety News and Facts for Employers May 15, 2006

Michigan News

Michigan NETS Supports State-wide and National Click It Or Ticket Mobilizations: Campaign Kicks-Off Today

The Buckle Up or Pay Up, click it or Ticket safety belt enforcement mobilization runs May 22 – June 4 and includes the Memorial Day holiday weekend. The Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning (OHSP) is providing federal traffic safety funds for local law enforcement agencies, sheriff offices and Michigan State Police posts in 55 of the state's 83 counties to conduct safety belt enforcement zones during the two-week period. More..... http://www.trafficsafety.org/newsletter/ticket_051506feat.asp

Driving Summer Camp for Teens

Ford Motor Company and the Governor's Highway Safety Association has scheduled a "Ford Driving Skills for Life Summer Camp" for teens August 1-4, 2006 in Romeo, Michigan, at the Michigan Proving Grounds. This is a free program for teens ages 16-19 years. The Summer Camp will consist of one day-long training session incorporating both in-depth instructional training by professionally certified driving instructors as well as hands-on experience on road courses focusing on the four core driving skills that include: Hazard Recognition, Vehicle-Handling, Speed Management, and Space Management. Transportation, meals and beverages will be provided for the duration of the program. In order to attend please call 888-987-8765 to request an application that must be completed and returned by June 1, 2006. Additional information on the Driving Skills For Life program can be obtained at the following link ----- www.drivingskillsforlife.com

Latest Traffic Safety News

Fatigue Is Most Common Distraction While Driving

8 out of 10 motor vehicle crashes involve a distraction, according to new study results from NHTSA and Virginia Tech Transportation Institute. One of the most common distractions was falling asleep at the wheel. This is a message to shift workers and their companies that falling asleep behind the wheel can prove to be dangerous or fatal. One way to help your employees and protect your company is to provide a place where a sleepy person can nap before driving home. Only a few people are likely to use it, but it could provide a lifesaving intervention for someone who had a bad shift and was really struggling to stay awake.

In-Vehicle Lane Departure Warning Systems Could Reduce Crashes

Lane Drift Warning Systems (LDWS) are designed to reduce road departure crashes through in-vehicle driver notification or warning. Such systems could reduce road-departure crashes by 10% each year. Available technology uses an in-vehicle camera-based system to monitor vehicle position within its travel lane, and warn the driver if the vehicle drifts out of a lane unintentionally as a result of driver drowsiness, distraction, or inattention. The system may activate in-vehicle countermeasures such as directional audible or vibration signal systems to inform the driver which way to steer. For more information, visit <http://www.itsbenefits.its.dot.gov/its/benecost.nsf/ByLink/BOTM-May2006>



XM Radio's Dave Nemo Show To Host ATRI Research Program

The American Transportation Research Institute (ATRI) announced today that the Dave Nemo Show would host a semi-monthly ATRI research program on XM Satellite Radio. The sessions, designed to discuss the approach and findings of different ATRI research initiatives, as well as how they impact truck drivers and motor carrier operations, will air on Open Road Channel 171 every other Thursday at 8 a.m. Central Standard Time.

Upcoming program topics:

May 4 -- Hours of Service & Its Safety Impacts

May 18 -- Congestion, Incidents & Work Zones: Managing for Safety & Productivity

June 1 -- Electronic On-board Recorders, On-board Safety Devices & Data Privacy

June 15 -- Transportation Funding: Who Pays, Who Benefits?

June 29 -- The Role of Speed in Truck Safety

July 13 -- Diesel Fuel Additives, Idling and Emissions: Emerging Environmental Trends

The Dave Nemo show is the nation's premier trucking broadcast, providing a forum for the trucking industry from 7 a.m. to noon, seven days a week, exclusively on XM Satellite Radio. Nemo began broadcasting "trucking radio" in the 1970s.

Experiment Studies Effects Of Cell Phone Use On Driver Aggression

While much research has focused on the cell phone as a major cause of driver distraction, this study was aimed at measuring the difference in drivers' aggression levels between following a driver who appears to be distracted while talking on a cell phone and one without a visible cell phone. The experiments involved a "test driver" traveling at 10 mph below the speed limit, and one who waited 15 seconds after the traffic light turned green before moving off. In both cases, the activities were repeated with and without a visible cell phone, and the reactions of drivers stuck behind the "study driver" were recorded. The study concludes that, although drivers' responses to roadway frustrations vary by gender, aggression levels are often higher when the frustration is attributable to another driver's cell phone use. For more information, visit

http://www.landlinemag.com/todays_news/Daily/2006/Apr06/042406.htm#3

Almost half of all liquor is consumed by problem drinkers

Between 37.5 and 49 percent of the alcohol sold in the U.S. goes to those under the legal drinking age or those with alcohol problems, according to the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse (CASA) at Columbia University. Researchers found that those groups account for \$48.3 billion to \$62.9 billion in sales, based on data from 2001. Prior to this study, no research looked at the commercial value of these drinkers, CASA said in a news release. The study also says that alcohol abuse and addiction cost the nation \$220 billion in 2004. Cancer and obesity have estimated costs of \$196 billion and \$133 billion, respectively, the group said. For more information, visit

<http://www.local6.com/health/9148631/detail.html>

Alcohol Detectors For All Cars?

Many courts now require repeat drunk drivers to install ignition-interlock devices on their cars, which prevent the vehicle from starting if any alcohol is detected in the driver. But some now say the devices should be installed on every new car, USA Today reported April 27. Mothers Against Drunk Driving say the idea has merit, and New York lawmakers are considering mandating the devices on all new cars starting in 2009. Volvo and Saab plan to offer consumers an optional interlock device within the next few years. The next wave of interlock devices are likely to utilize skin tests, not breath tests, to check for alcohol use. About 70,000 interlock devices are currently installed on vehicles, mostly



Parking At Meters Made Easier

Tired of not having enough change for a parking meter? The Buffalo, NY solution is a small gadget that hangs from a vehicle's rearview mirror. Loaded with prepaid time, it frees shoppers, couriers and business people from having to fumble for change. Popular in Europe, the device is catching on with several cities and college campuses around the US that are adding the in-car meter to a menu of parking choices and making old-time meters a little harder to find. Motorists buy or pay a refundable deposit on the units, which are about the size of a pocket calculator. After parking, the user turns on the unit and inserts a card loaded with prepaid parking time. The units are programmed to know the cost and maximum time allowed in a given parking zone. Once activated, the unit ticks away the minutes until it's turned off.

Technology Helps With Transportation Solutions

California's population is expected to grow by about 13 million in the next 20 years further stressing a transportation infrastructure system that is already stretched to the limit. Although the last century of transportation has witnessed many technological innovations, little has changed with respect to the interaction of cars and trucks with the roads they are on. But with rapid advances in low-cost and compact telecommunications, global positioning systems and Internet devices, California plans to help foster and apply emerging technologies to improve the safety, capacity and efficiency of their roads, rails and highways. For more information, visit

http://www.pe.com/localnews/opinion/2006/transportation/stories/PE_OpEd_Opinion_D_op_30_schuetzle_transport.2466a47.html

Registration for dot-mobi domain names opens May 22

Registration begins May 22 for new internet domain names using dot-mobi, a suffix that will signify specially designed websites for the mobile telecommunications industry. This initial stage of registration will be permitted to members of leading trade associations, such as CTIA, GSM Associations, Mobile Marketing Forum, etc. The company behind the naming effort, as well as the technology, is the Mobile Top Level Domain (mTLD) company, created last year by Ericsson, the GSM Association, Hutchison 3, Microsoft, Nokia, Orascom Telecom, Samsung Electronics, Syniverse, T-Mobile, Telefónica Móviles, Telefonica Italia Mobile and Vodafone. Google became an investor in December. The mTLD company, with headquarters in Dublin, Ireland, has approved more than a dozen demonstration and investor Websites using the domain. Among these are weather.mobi, google.mobi, CTIA.mobi and 3GSM.mobi. For more information, visit

<http://www.wirelessweek.com/article/CA6330047.html>

News from the USDOT:

Diabetic Truckers May See Relaxed Medical Rules in U.S.

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) is considering whether to amend its medical qualifications standards to allow drivers with insulin-treated diabetes mellitus (ITDM) to operate commercial trucks in interstate commerce. Truckers whose physical conditions are adequate to allow them to operate safely and without deleterious effects on their health may soon find it easier to haul out-of-state, according to Today's Trucking. Currently, drivers with ITDM are required to obtain exemptions to operate heavy trucks in interstate commerce. FMCSA may eliminate exemption requirements for three years of trucking experience while being treated with insulin.

Total and alcohol-related fatality rates by State, 2003-2004

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's National Center for Statistics and Analysis has released a Traffic Safety Facts Research Note that examines the rate of alcohol-related fatalities by



state. Estimates of alcohol involvement are generated using blood alcohol concentration (BAC) values reported to Fatality Analysis Reporting System and imputed BAC values when they are not reported. For more information, visit http://www.trb.org/news/blurbs_detail.asp?id=6247

USDOT Considers Temporary HOS Flexibility For Fuel Trucks

The U.S. Department of Transportation may relax hours-of-service rules for tank-truck drivers after fuel-delivery problems have caused some filling stations to run short of gasoline. Spot shortages have occurred in Texas as suppliers have diverted trucks to pick up ethanol, an additive being mixed with gasoline. Sen. Jeff Bingaman (D - N. Mex.) said some states have asked the USDOT to extend driver hours. New Jersey, Virginia, Pennsylvania and Maryland have already extended hours.

International Traffic Safety News:

Improving road safety in developing countries

TRB's Policy and Global Affairs Division (PGA), and the Institute of Medicine (IOM) have released TRB Special Report 287, Improving Road Safety in Developing Countries: Opportunities for U.S. Cooperation and Engagement. The report summarizes presentations and discussions at a workshop held on January 26-27, 2006, in Washington, D.C. The workshop focused on the sharp increases in road traffic-related deaths and injuries in developing countries with a goal of providing a view of the diversity of U.S. interests, the scope of activities of U.S. agencies addressing this problem, and prospects for further U.S. engagement. The workshop discussions were intended to help the responsible government agencies gauge whether the U.S. response is proportional to the interests at stake and to identify next steps toward a more effective response. For more information, visit http://www.trb.org/news/blurbs_detail.asp?id=6241

New Advanced Test For Business Drivers Launched

An advanced driving test purely for business drivers has been launched in a bid to cut the number of road deaths. Operated by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) and driver training company DriveTech (UK), ROADTest is aimed at company car and van drivers who, because they are out on the road for longer periods of time, have accidents rates between 35% and 50% higher than private drivers. The two companies claim that advanced drivers are 25% less likely to be involved in an accident and that the launch of the new program will promote higher safety levels in the fleet industry. For more information, visit <http://www.roadtest.org.uk>